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COCHIN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.)

Vol. IV — 1112.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday,

19th January, 1937.
6th Makaram, 1112.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K. C. I. E.) in the Chair.

Messrs. T. S. Balarama Ayyar, C. P. Lonappan, K. T. Mathew, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan and H. J. Walmesley were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Budget provisions lapsed in 1111 M. E.

151. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*—Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount in the Budget sanctioned but lapsed under each of the Budget heads in 1111?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts)*.—Please see statement appended. *(Appendix I.)*

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*.—Under Panchayats, Public Works and Stoneware Factory we see large amounts lapsing. May I know why these amounts were allowed to lapse?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts)*.—It was repeatedly stated in the Council that under Village Panchayats, the ordinary reason for lapses is that land acquisitions

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are not always completely effected in the matter of construction of roads. The amount of Rs. 16529 represents mainly lapses on account of such charges. Under Public Works it is mainly due to tender deductions. Under Stoneware factory it is due to the change in the system of accounts whereby the stoneware factory expenditure began to be exhibited under debt heads instead of under service heads. Those amounts provided under service heads therefore lapsed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—Will it not be advisable to keep these amounts without lapsing just like Road Board amounts? Will the Government consider that?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts)*—The question has often been considered by Government. In Departments like Panchayats and others for which provision is made according to requirements, the necessity for avoiding lapses is not required. Here, though there is a lapse, we make sufficient provision in the succeeding budget having regard to these lapses also. More than that, we make a contingent provision for taking up lapsed works. You will find in the budget that such a provision is usually made.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—What is the objection in keeping them non-lapsable just like Road Board amounts?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—It is fundamentally wrong to allow amounts to be kept in deposit on behalf of departments. Because other departments may have to be properly financed. If every year the Panchayat budget allotments are allowed not to lapse, then having regard to the fact that all requirements of the Panchayat are provided for separately, other departments will be starved. Owing to Panchayat allotments having to be kept up according to its usual standard and allowing such lapsed amounts to remain in deposit, other departments will be starved.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—Is it fundamentally wrong that the Road Board amounts are kept as non-lapsable?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—One instance cannot be made a reason for a generalisation. It is owing to the existing condition of the roads of the State for some time until we have a net work of roads, this system of

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Road Board and the consequent necessity for allowing allotments not to lapse in respect of roads is required. But that should not be made applicable to other departments.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—Are there not roads under the Panchayats? Should it not be made applicable to the Panchayats just like the Public Works?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—The cost is smaller.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur Rural*) —May I know for what purpose this 2 lakhs is put under non-votable?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—That is not a lapsed amount.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—When the allotments were made, did you do it with the expectation that they will lapse?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—We make provision for lapses. When the budget is framed, we would have been far ahead of the expenditure during the course of the year. We have in our hands the actual expenditure for seven months of the year. When we see that allotments for works are likely to lapse provision is made in the budget of the succeeding year.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—So, the budget prepared does not mean what it really contains?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts)*—Owing to eventualities and exigencies some amounts lapse.

Mr. P. Raman Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*).—Supposing the amounts have been utilised, will the other departments be starved?

Mr. President.—The ideal condition of making a budget will be not to ask for a supplementary demand and not to allow any amount to lapse. That ideal has never been reached by any Government. But we try as far as possible to spend according to the estimates prepared. One obvious advantage of not allowing an amount to lapse of a particular department is, once that is sanctioned the department concerned will be slack. They will know that this money will be there. The work will therefore be postponed. One obvious advantage of always insisting that the

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expenditure should be incurred in that year is that the Department concerned will hurry up with the work as otherwise the amount will lapse. If it is not allowed to lapse the officers concerned will sleep over the matter. That is the case everywhere in the world. That is one of the strong reasons for not allowing money to lapse in any department.

Tanahdars and watchers—Forest Department.

152. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the number of tanahdars and watchers in the Forest Department who have put in more than 10 years' continued service;

(b) the number who have put in more than 15 years and the number who have been in the service for more than 20 years?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests).*—

(a) Tanahdars 18

Watchers 65

(b)

	Over 15 years.	Over 20 years.
Tanahdars	10	2
Watchers	49	31

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—Are these officers given privilege leave and pension?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests).*—No, they are not allowed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—Are they not asked to furnish security by the Government?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests).*—Yes. Rs. 100.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*— Is any interest given to them on this amount?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests).*—They are allowed to deposit this amount in the Co-operative Central Bank.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi).*—Some of them, viz. 33, have put in more than 20 years' continued

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